

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5386

S E C R E T LISBON 7514

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA

1. AT SOCIAL OCCASION TODAY DECEMBER 18 FONMIN MELO ANTUNES CALLED ME ASIDE TO TELL ME HE INTENDED TO CALL ME IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS "THE PROBLEM OF THE U.S. CONGRESS AND ANGOLA."

2. ANTUNES EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER MASSIVE SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO MPLA AND SAID HE WAS WORRIED THAT THE ATTACKS ON THE SECRETARY IN CONGRESS AND IN THE PRESS WOULD RESULT IN RESTRICTIONS ON USG FLEXIBILITY. WHILE PORTUGAL COULD NOT BECOME OVERTLY INVOLVED IT "HAD ITS VITAL INTERESTS TO PROTECT" AND DID NOT WISH TO SEE A SOVIET TAKEOVER. HE THEREFORE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO FOLLOW UP ON HIS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER.

3. I ASKED IF MELO ANTUNES FORESAW THE POSSIBILITY OF "COLLABORATION" WITH US ON ANGOLA. HE RESPONDED THAT "AT THE VERY LEAST WE SHOULD HAVE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS." I TOLD HIM I WOULD CONVEY HIS INTEREST TO SECRETARY KISSINGER.

4. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT COSTA GOMES EXPRESSED CONCERN TO ME OVER SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA DURING MY LAST CONVERSATION WITH HIM (LISBON 6911). IN THE NEW POLITICAL CLIMATE PREVAILING IN PORTUGAL IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO WORK WITH THE GOP IF THE DEPARTMENT

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THINKS IT USEFUL. THREE AREAS IMMEDIATELY SUGGEST THEMSELVES:

(1) INTELLIGENCE, SINCE THE PORTUGUESE OBVIOUSLY HAVE SOME
RESOURCES STILL IN ANGOLA, (2) DIPLOMATIC ACTION WITH THE
AFRICAN COUNTRIES, AND (3) ASSISTANCE IN ACQUAINTING OTHERS
WITH THE NATURE OF THE THREAT. REQUEST GUIDANCE.

CARLUCCI

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